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Fact finding for agriculture

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U.S. SUGARCANE

U.S. sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 1998 is expected to total 31.3 million tons, down 1 percent from 1997, but 1 percent above the August 1 estimate. The expected area for harvest, at 939,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from the previous estimate and nearly 3 percent above last year. The forecasted yield, at 33.3 tons per acre, is 0.2 tons above the August estimate, but 1.4 tons below 1997.

Rain improved crop prospects in Florida, and mills were making preparations for beginning operations. Dry weather allowed harvest to begin early in Hawaii. Stands were good in Louisiana, but yields were expected to fall below 1997 due to the summer drought. In Texas, water supplies improved with recent rains, but additional rains will be needed to maintain yield prospects.

U.S. SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR AND SEED

	Area harvested		Yield ¹		Production ¹		
State	1997	Indication 1998	1997	Indication 1998	1996	1997	Indication 1998
	1,000 acres		Tons		1,000 tons		
Florida	440.0	448.0	36.9	36.0	14,498	16,236	16,128
Hawaii	34.2	34.0	88.0	82.0	3,639	3,009	2,788
Louisiana	410.0	420.0	28.2	27.0	10,323	11,562	11,340
Texas	29.8	37.0	30.3	27.5	1,002	902	1,018
U.S.	914.0	939.0	34.7	33.3	29,462	31,709	31,274

¹ Net tons.

U.S. SUGARBEETS

Planted acres were updated from the August crop report in Montana and North Dakota. Acres to be harvested in the 12 sugarbeet-producing states were forecasted at just under 1.46 million acres, 27,200 acres above 1997 but 5,300 acres below the previous forecast. Heavy rains drowned several thousand acres in the southern Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota and accounts for most of the increase in abandonment.

Production is forecasted at 31.1 million tons, 4 percent above the 1997 final production estimate, but slightly below the August 1 forecast. If realized, production would be the second largest on record. Dry weather and above normal temperatures have stressed the sugarbeet crop in Michigan and North Dakota, although early taproot development in Michigan partially offset the effects of the dry summer. Adequate moisture and cooler nighttime temperatures have been beneficial to the Colorado crop. In California, a cold, wet spring delayed planting and early crop development, which eventually delayed the beginning of the harvest season by nearly 4 weeks.

U.S. SUGARBEETS¹

	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
State	1997	Indication 1998	1997	Indication 1998	1996	1997	Indication 1998
	1,000 acres		Tons		1,000 tons		
California	99.0	100.0	30.0	29.0	2,419	2,970	2,900
Colorado	66.4	59.8	19.7	21.7	1,032	1,308	1,298
Idaho	197.0	203.0	26.4	25.3	4,563	5,210	5,136
Michigan	160.0	174.0	19.0	18.0	1,963	3,040	3,132
Minnesota	446.0	462.0	18.5	19.4	7,971	8,251	8,963
Montana ²	58.3	63.0	21.0	21.6	1,300	1,224	1,361
Nebraska	60.3	45.9	16.8	19.5	913	1,013	895
New Mexico	1.6		30.6		27	49	
North Dakota ²	227.5	240.0	18.5	19.7	4,213	4,205	4,728
Ohio	0.9	1.0	19.0	18.0	86	17	18
Oregon	17.4	17.4	28.4	24.4	416	494	427
Texas	15.0		18.0		242	270	
Washington	18.0	36.3	33.1	33.5	461	595	1,216
Wyoming	60.9	53.0	20.4	20.0	1,074	1,240	1,060
U.S.	1,428.3	1,455.5	20.9	21.4	26,680	29,886	31,134

¹Relates to year of intended harvest except for overwintered spring planted beets in California.

² Planted acres for Montana and North Dakota revised to 64,300 and 245,000 acres, respectively.